(b) out of these how many are for consumer goods; and

(c) what is the total foreign investment proposed in the project cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) 162 proposals recommended by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board have been approved till 30th November, 1992.

(b) Of the 162 proposals approved, 47 are in sectors like food processing industries, fermentation industries, textiles, leather goods, paper and paper products, automobiles, electric and engineering goods etc.

(c) These proposals envisage direct foreign investment of Rs. 2530.22 crores.

Export of Ayurvedic drugs

3643. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing popularity and demand of Ayurvedic drugs in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the countries where such drugs, both prepared and raw are exported, country-wise and drug-wise; and

(c) what incentives are being given/ proposed to be given for promotion of export of such drugs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) Although many of the Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines have found favour with Countries such as USA, Malaysia, Italy, Japan, Denmark, France, Canada, Belgium exports of these medicines have not been very significant, particularly due to problems connected with lengthy and cumbersome procedure for registration of drugs laid down by the health authorities of overseas countries. Moreover, the manufacturers of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines of not have the same kind of clinical data to back up their products as is available for allopathic medicines. Many countries have restrictions on use of this group of medicines because of presence of metal oxides in them.

Details regarding itemwise exports of Ayurvedic drugs to various countries are not available.

In order to popularise the use of Ayurvedic medicines in overseas countries, the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Bombay, in association with a renowned Ayurvedic Research Centre have prepared a monograph on 'Selected Medicinal Plants' for publicity abroad and printing literature on Ayurvedic medicines in different foreign languages. The Council are also undertaking all other usual export promotion measures such as sending promotional teams abroad and arranging buyer-seller meets etc. to boost exports from this sector.

Restrictions on Export of Agricultural Produce

3644. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of restrictions, prohibitions, levies, charges imposed by Government on the export of agricultural produce?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Cess service charges, etc., are levied under provisions of the following Acts of Parliament, on the export of agricultural commodities:

(1) The Agricultural Produce Cess act, 1940 (27 of 1940);

(2) Agricultural & Processed Food Products Cess Act, 1985 (3 of 1986);

(3) Spices Cess act, 1986 (11 of 1986)

(4) Tobacco Cess act, 1975 (26 of 1975)

(5) The Produce Cess Act, 1966 (15 of 1966)

(6) Export (quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963)

(7) Customs Act, 1962; and

(8) Sea Customs Act, 1978.

It is the policy of the Government to promote the export of agricultural commodities in such a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected. hence, all agricultural commodities may be exported without any restriction except to the extent that such exports are regulated by the Negative List of exports or any other provisions of the extent Export Policy, or any other law for the time being in force.

Export of non-basmati Rice

3645. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export non-basmati rice to earn foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, details of the export plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the current year, around 45,808 MTs of non-basmati rice valued at Rs. 37.98 crores has already been exported. Further quota release is under consideration.

Losses to MMTC due to unloading operations at Visakhapatnam

3646. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC is suffering heavy losses due to payment of demurrages to the buyers abroad because Visakhapatnam port trust is unable to conduct loading operations in time;

(b) if so, the extent of loss incurred by MMTC because of delay in loading by VPT per year in foreign exchange for the last three years; year-wise; and

(c) what steps are taken/proposed to be taken to improve the efficiency of loading operations at Visakhapatnam Port Trust and other major ports in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Due to various reasons, delays occur in loading operations of iron ore vessels at Visakhapatnam Port resulting in demurrage most of which is payable in foreign exchange and these reasons include breakdowns of the loading equipment installed at Visakhapatnam Port Trust.

(b) amount of demurrage incurred in foreign exchange exclusively on account of delay in loading by VPT is not available. However, year-wise demurrage incurred from 1988-89 on foreign flag vessels loaded with iron ore at Visakhapatnam Port which is payable in foreign exchange has been as under:—

Year	Demurrage in US$
1988-89	3,68,521.12
1989-90	3,99,930.18
1990-91	3,92,188.77
1991-92	7,26,169.42
1992-93 (Upto Nov. 92)	5,03,424.25

(c) Ports undertake preventive maintenance as well as prompt repairs to minimise the equipment breakdowns and reduce delays in loading and improve efficiency of the loading operations. Review of ports' performance is also undertaken by the Ministry of Surface Transport periodically at inter-Ministerial meetings.